

Elsen, Nikki

From: Julie Chamberlain <chambergarden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 5:00 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Rezoning issue from 2/5 J & A Comm. mtg.

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I attended the meeting referenced above and there are a few things I find upsetting.

First was M. Gaul's very condescending remark to my council person, Larry Sleznikow near the end. Larry was trying to give everyone a bit more time to consider the issue and possibly try to find some common ground, or even compromise. Gaul admonished him that he will find, with more experience (such as Gaul), he will find it's a waste of time to do that. Gaul needs reprimanding, particularly in front of a packed public meeting.

Secondly, there were several comments from the council indicating that this was only a vote to change the zoning of the access point land in order to "conserve" it and make it uniform with the other parcels. Neither side of the issue was fooled by these comments. We were being told to relax as this wouldn't be a vote on the trail. Further, I've heard from Ebner Coulee residents who were told to stay home as this wasn't really about the trail vote. That vote opened the door to approve the trail, just as ORA perceived after the meeting.

Thirdly, I am disturbed by the manner in which a council member replied to my friend who was also at the meeting and had communicated her feelings on the issue in a respectful, sincere email. Neither party will be named, but the councilman will know who I am talking about. The use of all capital letters in a message is universally translated as yelling/shouting. Perhaps folks could use a workshop in respectful communication?

Lastly, after the meeting there were a few quiet comments by ORA members (or supporters) that, "we need to downplay the mountain biking parts " of their presentations. Actually, this has been their design all the way through in their planning, and they've been effective. They never once mentioned mountain biking trails in the Bluffside Neighborhood presentation I attended and it was only mentioned after a hiker brought it up as, "the elephant in the room". They know from experience that most folks realize sharing a trail with bikers can be dangerous. Indeed, the Channel 8 news this morning merely said "trails" without the specific designation. Make no mistake, this are not hiking trails.

I urge you to study the proposed trail, in particular, the south side of the bluff trail and visit the site before the final vote next week. Finally, I had was incredulous that Mr. Odengaard said these properties will go up in value; perhaps on level land, but I can only imagine what their insurance companies will do about their rates, not to mention the lawsuit potential in future rockslides.

Thank you for your hard work and time in considering city issues. While I appreciate the difficulties in decision making, many of us feel we were given short shrift, particularly since many only learned these were bike trails less than a month ago.

Respectfully,
Julie J. Chamberlain
214 S. 19th St.